



23 April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: NHS Test, Trace, Protect: COVID-19 Rapid Lateral Flow Self-Test

The Welsh Government has recently announced that a free and voluntary programme of asymptomatic COVID-19 testing is available in education and childcare settings across Wales. This offer is available to all staff and students in Years 7-13. **Having read this letter, if you would like to give consent for your child to participate, please see the end of the letter for the link to the consent form that must be completed by Thursday 29th April 2021.**

Along with the primary infection control measures we have implemented, such as social distancing and good hand hygiene, testing will allow us to provide some additional reassurance to the wider school community.

Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 have the virus without symptoms so could be transmitting the virus unknowingly. Part of controlling the spread of the virus requires identifying those infectious individuals who aren't showing any symptoms and asking them to self-isolate. Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals. The speed and convenience of LFD tests supports detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals who would not otherwise be tested. They are clinically approved and are crucial in the fight against the virus.

As the tests are more sensitive with higher viral loads, there is a risk of returning a negative result when viral loads are low (e.g. in the early stages of infection). This is why it is recommended that two LFD tests are taken 3 to 4 days apart, to enhance detection by picking up any cases which were not detected during the first test and to catch any new infections. **If you consent, we would ask your child to test on a Sunday evening and a Wednesday evening.**

If your child tests positive using a LFD, it is likely that they are infectious and they must self-isolate immediately and book and take a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test within 24 hours of their positive LFD test result. Contact tracing will be triggered following a positive LFD and your child's close contacts will also be required to self-isolate until the result of the PCR test result. If the PCR test result is positive, your child and their close contacts will have to continue to self-isolate.

A negative LFD result should not be read as a means to relax or ignore social distancing or other virus prevention measures intended to reduce transmission – LFD is an additional tool that contributes to reducing risk.

How the tests work

If you agree for your child to take part, **a consent form will need to be completed**, then the school will arrange for your child to collect a pack of LFD test kits which will enable self-testing from home. Tests should be taken on a Wednesday and Sunday evening. The LFDs supplied do not require laboratory processing and can provide a quick result in around 30



minutes. Comprehensive guidance on self-testing is contained in the 'Instructions for Use' leaflet which comes with the test kit and the attached self-test instructions.

Once the test has been conducted each test result must be logged online at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result.

Privacy

All individuals wishing to take part should familiarise themselves with the testing process and the attached privacy notice. If you choose for your child to participate, you are committing to self-administer the test and provide results for all tests (negative or positive).

Consent

Taking part in testing is voluntary. There is no expectation or obligation to participate. Anyone who chooses not to participate should still attend school as long as they are not displaying COVID-19 symptoms and follow the usual national guidelines on self-isolation and get tested if they show symptoms.

If you want to participate in the lateral flow testing a consent form will have to be completed:

- For **students younger than 16 years**, the consent form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Remember to complete **one consent form for each child** you wish to enrol.

Consent form

If you would like your child to participate in lateral flow testing, please click [HERE](#) and **complete the consent form by Thursday 29th April 2021**.

Thank you for considering the information in this letter. If you have any questions about the programme do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Jarrett

Headteacher